



Biden announces \$150 million in research grants as part of his 'moonshot' push to fight cancer

By WILL WEISSERT and
CARLA K. JOHNSON

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — President Joe Biden is zeroing in on the policy goals closest to his heart now that he's no longer seeking a second term, visiting New Orleans on Tuesday to promote his administration's "moonshot" initiative aiming to dramatically reduce cancer deaths.

The president and first lady Jill Biden toured medical facilities that receive federal funding to investigate cancer treatments at Tulane University, where researchers demonstrated using a piece of raw meat how they are working to improve scanning technology to quickly distinguish between healthy and cancerous cells during surgeries.



President Joe Biden speaks on the cancer moonshot initiative at the John F. Kennedy Library and Museum, Sept. 12, 2022, in Boston. Associated Press

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Biden announces \$150 million in research grants as part of his 'moonshot' push to fight cancer

Continued from Front

The pair then championed the announcement of \$150 million in awards from the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health. Those will support eight teams of researchers around the country working on ways to help surgeons more successfully remove tumors from people with cancer. It brings the total amount awarded by the agency to develop breakthrough treatments for cancers to \$400 million. Cancer surgery "takes the best surgeons and takes its toll on families," Biden said. He said the demonstration of cutting-edge technology he witnessed would offer doctors a way to visualize tumors in real time, reducing the need for follow-on surgeries. "We're moving quickly because we know that all families touched by cancer are in a race against time," Biden said. The teams receiving awards include ones from Tulane, Dartmouth College, Johns



President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden listen during a demonstration of cancer research and detection techniques at Tulane University, Tuesday, Aug. 13, 2024, in New Orleans.

Associated Press

Hopkins University, Rice University, the University of California, San Francisco, the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, the University of Washington and Cision Vision in Mountain View, California. Before he leaves office in January, Biden hopes to move the U.S. closer to the goal he set in 2022 to cut U.S. cancer fatalities by 50% over the next 25 years, and to improve the lives of caregiv-

ers and those suffering from cancer. "I'm a congenital optimist about what Americans can do," Biden said. "There's so much that we're doing. It matters" Experts say the objective is attainable — with adequate investments. "We're curing people of diseases that we previously thought were absolutely intractable and not survivable," said Karen Knudsen,

CEO of the American Cancer Society and the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network. Cancer is the second-highest killer of people in the U.S. after heart disease. This year alone, the American Cancer Society estimates that 2 million new cases will be diagnosed and 611,720 people will die of cancer diseases. Still, "if all innovation ended today and we could just get people access to the innovations that we know about right now, we think we could reduce cancer mortality by another 20 to 30%," Knudsen said. The issue is personal enough for Biden that, in his recent Oval Office address about bowing out of the 2024 campaign, the president promised to keep fighting for "my cancer moonshot so we can end cancer as we know it." "Because we can do it," Biden said then. He said in that speech that the initiative would be a priority of his final months in office, along with working

to strengthen the economy and defend abortion rights, protecting children from gun violence and making changes to the Supreme Court, which he called "extreme" in its current makeup during a recent event. Both the president and first lady have had lesions removed from their skin in the past that were determined to be basal cell carcinoma, a common and easily treated form of cancer. In 2015, their eldest son, Beau, died of an aggressive brain cancer at age 46. "It's not just personal," Biden said Tuesday. "It's about what's possible." The president's public schedule has been much quieter since he left the race and endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris, making Tuesday's trip stand out. Advocates have praised Biden for keeping the spotlight on cancer, bringing stakeholders together and gathering commitments from private companies, nonprofit organizations and patient groups. □



The National Transportation Safety Board logo is seen during a news conference in Portland, Ore., on Jan. 6, 2024.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal safety agency is recommending that air

tours and other commercial aircraft operators be required to have certifi-

Federal board urges stricter safety rules for loading and dispatching charter flights like air tours

cated dispatchers to help pilots plan their flights. The National Transportation Safety Board said Tuesday that and other recommendations are based on a study of more than 500 accidents, some of them fatal. The NTSB said it began the study after seeing a "cluster of safety issues" from investigations of crashes between 2010 and 2022. The recommendations would not apply to major airlines, which operate under the most stringent U.S.

rules. The NTSB noted that historically airlines have had lower accident rates than charter operations. The board said the Federal Aviation Administration should require air tours, commuter services, air ambulances and business jet charters to employ certificated flight dispatchers. The board said it found 12 accidents with a total of 45 deaths where flight dispatch was "deficient" because current regulations don't require people performing the work to meet

particular standards. The NTSB said it found four accidents and 11 deaths involving small planes that were not loaded in a safe manner. It recommended expanding a current rule on weight and balance documentation to single-engine planes. The board also repeated a previous recommendation that planes used in non-scheduled commercial operation be outfitted to collect data that indicates when pilots fail to follow proper procedures. □

There's an apostrophe battle brewing among grammar nerds. Is it Harris' or Harris's?

By HOLLY RAMER

Associated Press

Whatever possessed Vice President Kamala Harris to pick Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz as her running mate, it probably wasn't a desire to inflame arguments about apostrophes. But it doesn't take much to get grammar nerds fired up.

"The lower the stakes, the bigger the fight," said Ron Woloshun, a creative director and digital marketer in California who jumped into the fray on social media less than an hour after Harris selected Walz last week to offer his take on possessive proper nouns.

The Associated Press Stylebook says "use only an apostrophe" for singular proper names ending in S: Dickens' novels, Hercules' labors, Jesus' life. But not everyone agrees.

Debate about possessive proper names ending in S started soon after President Joe Biden cleared the way for Harris to run last month. Is it Harris' or Harris's? But the selection of Walz with his sounds-like-an-s surname really ramped it up, said Benjamin Dreyer, the retired copy chief at Random House and author of "Dreyer's English: An Utterly Correct Guide to Clarity and Style."

Dreyer was inundated with questions within minutes of the announcement, which came while he was at the dentist.

"I was like, 'All right, everybody just has to chill. I'll be home in a little while and I can get to my desk,'" he said.

While there is widespread agreement that Walz's is correct, confusion persists about Harris' vs. Harris's. Dreyer's verdict? Add the 's.

"To set the 's is just simpler, and then you can take your valuable brain cells and apply them to more important things," he said.

Woloshun chimed in with a similar opinion on the social platform X, where apostrophes are being thrown around like hand grenades. "The rule is simple: If you



Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris and her running mate Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz arrive at a campaign rally in Philadelphia, Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2024.

Associated Press

say the S, spell the S," he argued.

That puts them on the same side as The New York Times, The Washington Post and The Wall Street Journal — and at odds with AP.

While AP style has evolved on many fronts over the years, there are no immediate plans to change the guidance on possessives, said Amanda Barrett, AP's vice president for news standards and inclusion.

"This is a longstanding policy for the AP. It has served us well, and we've not seen any real need to change," she said. "We do know that the conversation is out there and people make different choices when it comes to grammar, and that's all fine. Everyone makes a choice that works best for them."

Timothy Pulju, a senior lecturer in linguistics at Dartmouth College, said that until the 17th or 18th century, the possessive of proper names ending in S — such as Jesus or Moses — often was simply the name itself with no apostrophe or additional S. Eventually, the apostrophe was added (Jesus' or Moses') to denote possession, though the pronunciation remained the same.

"That became kind of the standard that I was taught and adhere to, even though in retrospect, I don't think it's a great standard," he said.

That's because linguists view writing as a repre-

sentation of speech, and speech has changed since then. Pulju said he expects the 's form to become

dominant eventually. But for now, he — along with the Merriam-Webster dictionary — says either way

is acceptable. "As long as people are communicating successfully, we say language is doing what it's supposed to be doing," he said. "If you can read it whichever way it's written, then it seems like it's working for people. They're not getting confused about whose running mate Tim Walz is."

If she wins in November, Harris would become the third U.S. president with a last name ending in S and the first since Rutherford B. Hayes, who was elected in 1876 — 130 years before the founding of Twitter — and was spared the social media frenzy over apostrophes. Harris is the first nominee with such a tricky last name since 1984. □



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San Francisco prosecutors charge 26 pro-Palestinian demonstrators who blocked Golden Gate Bridge

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — San Francisco prosecutors have charged 26 protesters who blocked the Golden Gate Bridge for hours in April to demand a cease-fire in Gaza. The protest on April 15 was one of many held by pro-Palestinian demonstrators who blocked roadways around the country, causing traffic jams and temporarily shutting down travel into some of the nation's most heavily used airports. The protesters were charged with felony conspiracy, false imprisonment, trespassing to interfere with a business, obstruction of a thoroughfare, unlawful assembly, refusal to disperse at a riot, and failure to obey the lawful order of a uniformed officer, the San Francisco District Attorney's Office announced Saturday. Traffic snarled for hours af-

ter demonstrators blocked lanes with vehicles, shutting down all vehicle, pedestrian and bike traffic on the Golden Gate Bridge. The demonstration was part of coordinated protests across the country to demand an immediate cease-fire in Gaza and an end to military aid to Israel. Prosecutors said the protest trapped hundreds of motorists on the bridge "who had no choice but to remain imprisoned on the freeway for several hours." "While we must protect avenues for free speech, the exercise of free speech can not compromise public safety," District Attorney Brooke Jenkins said in a statement. "The demonstration on the Golden Gate Bridge caused a level of safety risk, including extreme threats to the health and welfare of those trapped, that we as



Demonstrators protesting the ongoing war in Gaza block southbound traffic along Interstate 880 in Oakland, Calif., Monday, April 15, 2024.

a society cannot ignore or allow." The San Francisco Public Defender's Office said it anticipates it will represent some of those charged and asked that the charges be dropped. The office said Jenkins "went fishing on Twitter for complaints about the protest even though no one was injured

and the California Highway Patrol cleared the roadway with no resistance from protesters." "The protestors are opposing American tax dollars being used to fund ongoing attacks on the people in Gaza, which the International Criminal Court has deemed crimes against humanity," San Francisco

Public Defender Mano Raju said. "Our attorneys intend to vehemently defend any individuals we are appointed to represent." In March, the San Francisco District Attorney's Office dropped criminal charges against 78 protesters who blocked traffic on the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge for hours in November to demand a cease-fire in Gaza, prosecutors said. The demonstrators were instead ordered to do five hours of community service and pay restitution. The Nov. 16 protest came as San Francisco was hosting President Joe Biden and other world leaders for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit. Protesters calling for a cease-fire have also blocked major roadways in cities including Los Angeles, New York, Boston and Philadelphia. □

Before lobster, Maine had a thriving sardine industry. A sunken ship reminds us of its storied past

By **DAVID SHARP**
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — An 83-foot (25-meter) motor boat that was one of the first refrigerated sardine carriers during the heyday of Maine's sardine industry is going to be scrapped after a recovery operation to retrieve the sunken vessel. The Jacob Pike fell victim to a storm last winter. The 21-year-old great-great-grandson of the vessel's namesake wants the historic wooden vessel to be preserved, and formed a nonprofit that would use it as an educational platform. But the U.S. Coast Guard doesn't have the authority to transfer ownership of the vessel. And any new owner could become responsible for repaying up to \$300,000 for environmental remediation. Sumner Pike Rugh said he's still hoping to work with the Coast Guard but understands the vessel's fate is likely sealed. "It's an ignominious end to



In this image provided by Aaron Pike Rugh, the retired sardine carrier Jacob Pike, which sank last winter off Harpswell, Maine, is seen after a salvage company raised the vessel in this photo taken, Saturday, Aug. 10, 2024, in waters off South Portland, Maine.

a storied vessel," said his father, Aaron Pike Rugh. Around the world, Maine is synonymous with lobster — the state's signature seafood — but that wasn't always the case. Over the years, hundreds of sardine canneries operated along

the Maine coast. The first U.S. sardine cannery opened in 1875 in Eastport, Maine, with workers sorting, snipping and packing sardines, which fueled American workers and, later, allied troops overseas. On the nation's opposite

coast, sardine canneries were immortalized by John Steinbeck in his 1945 novel "Cannery Row," which focused on Monterey, California. Launched in 1949, the Jacob Pike is a wooden vessel with a motor, along with a

type of refrigeration system that allowed the vessel to accept tons of herring from fishing vessels before being offloaded at canneries. When tastes changed and sardines fell out of favor — leading to the shuttering of canneries — the Jacob Pike vessel hauled lobsters. By last winter, its glory days were long past as it sank off Harpswell during a powerful storm. In recent years there's been a resurgence of interest in tinned fish, but the historic ship was already sailed — or in this case, sunk. Sumner Rugh, a senior at the United States Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, New York, was halfway around the world on a tanker off the coast of South Korea when he learned that the vessel he wanted to preserve was gone. No one else seemed interested in the vessel, he said, so he started the nonprofit Jacob Pike Organization with a board that includes some former owners. □

A ship in the Red Sea is attacked 3 times by suspected Yemeni rebels, including with a drone boat

By JON GAMBRELL

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates

(AP) — A Liberian-flagged oil

tanker in the Red Sea came under attack three times on Tuesday, including in an assault using a bomb-carrying drone boat, likely the latest in a campaign by Yemen's Houthi rebels over the Israel-Hamas war, officials said.

The attacks come as the rebels' main sponsor, Iran, weighs possible retaliation against Israel over the assassination of Hamas official Ismail Haniyeh last month in Tehran, Iran's capital, which has renewed fears of a wider regional war in the Middle East. Already, the Houthi assaults have disrupted the \$1 trillion annual flow of goods through the maritime route crucial to trade among Asia, Europe and the Middle East, while also sparking the most intense combat for the U.S. Navy since World War II.

The Greek-managed Delta Atlantica was first attacked when two explosives detonated near it, according to the Joint Maritime Information Center, a multinational force overseen by the U.S.



Houthi rebel fighters march during a rally of support for the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and against the U.S. strikes on Yemen outside Sanaa on Jan. 22, 2024.

Associated Press

Navy. A small ship "flashing lights" at the vessel had come close to the loaded tanker bound for Greece during the incident, the center said.

A small ship later flashed lights at the Delta Atlantica before another explosion near it, the center said.

The third attack happened hours later on Tuesday, some 180 kilometers (110 miles) northwest of the Houthi-held port city Hodeida, prompting an armed security force aboard the tanker to open fire.

"The vessel was approached by an uncrewed surface ves-

sel on the starboard side. The USV collided with the vessel but did not detonate," the center said. "Subsequently, the armed security team disabled the USV via small arms fire."

Another vessel, identified by the center as a Panama-flagged crude oil tanker

called On Phoenix, also saw an explosion off its side on Tuesday, but similarly sustained no damage, the center said.

The Houthis have so far not claimed responsibility for the assaults, though sometimes they wait days to do so, and other times they have claimed attacks that appear not to have happened. The Houthis have targeted more than 70 vessels with missiles and drones since the start of the war in Gaza in October. They have seized one vessel and sunk two in the campaign that has killed four sailors. Other missiles and drones have been either intercepted by a U.S.-led coalition in the Red Sea or failed to reach their targets.

The rebels maintain that they have targeted ships linked to Israel, the United States or the U.K. to force an end to Israel's war against Hamas in Gaza. However, many of the ships attacked have little or no connection to the conflict, including some bound for Iran. The center said it has not find any link between the Delta Atlantica and the war in Gaza. □

Public spat highlights cracks in Netanyahu's coalition as Israel braces for feared Iran attack

JERUSALEM (AP) — Cracks are widening in a public tiff between Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his moderate defense minister, the latest spat showing growing discontent with Netanyahu's

handling of the war at a sensitive time.

Israel is bracing for potential Iranian retaliation after a blast in Tehran killed Hamas' leader an attack blamed on Israel. And a new round of cease-fire

negotiations between Israel and Hamas is set to begin later this week.

On Monday, the Israeli media reported that Defense Minister Yoav Gallant condemned Netanyahu's "nonsense about 'total victory'" a phrase the prime minister has frequently repeated during the 10-month-old war in Gaza.

The war, which began with a Hamas-led Oct. 7 attack on Israel that killed 1,200 people and left about 250 hostage in Gaza, has killed more than 39,000 Palestinians. Netanyahu has frequently been criticized, including by members of his own government, for lacking clear strategic aims, a post-war plan for Gaza, or even a specific definition of what "total victory"

would look like.

Gallant's comments were apparently made during a closed-door hearing before an Israeli parliamentary committee and leaked to the media.

Netanyahu struck back, saying Gallant should have criticized Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar instead.

"When Gallant adopts the anti-Israel narrative, he harms the chances of reaching a hostage release deal," the Prime Minister's Office said in a statement.

Gallant attempted to ease tensions by responding that his priority was to "protect the citizens of Israel and to harm our enemies."

Gallant, who is a member of Netanyahu's Likud

party, raised the prime minister's ire last year by publicly opposing his controversial push for changes to Israel's judiciary. When Netanyahu attempted to fire Gallant, mass protests erupted, with hundreds of thousands of Israelis taking to the streets in the middle of the night.

An Israeli official who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak with the media said that Netanyahu is not considering firing Gallant at the current time.

Gallant is one of the few moderate voices left in Netanyahu's government following the departure of centrist Benny Gantz, who left the unity coalition earlier this year. □



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, left and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant attend a press conference in the Kirya military base in Tel Aviv, Israel, Oct. 28, 2023.

Associated Press

Bangladesh ex-Premier Hasina calls for probe into killings during unrest that led to her ouster

By JULHAS ALAM

Associated Press

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)

— Former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued a call Tuesday from self-exile in India for an investigation into those responsible for killings of students and others during weeks of violent protests in Bangladesh that prompted her ouster.

Hasina, who stepped down and fled Bangladesh on Aug. 5 after student activists led an uprising against her government, is herself accused of responsibility for much of the deadly violence, and activists have demanded that she be put on trial. In a statement posted on the social media platform X by her son Sajeeb Wazed Joy, Hasina said she wanted an investigation and demanded "punishment for those responsible for the killings and sabotage." It was her first public statement since leaving the country.

More than 300 people were killed in unrest that started July with protests against a quota system for government jobs that later morphed into a movement against what was considered Hasina's increasingly



Students shout slogans during a protest demanding trial of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Tuesday, Aug. 13, 2024.

Associated Press

autocratic administration. Some of the violence pitted student activists against pro-government student and youth groups and police, and many of those who died were among the student activists. However, Hasina's statement underlined that police officers, members of her Awami League political party, bystanders and others also were victims of what

she described as "terrorist aggression." She previously has blamed opposition parties for stoking the unrest. Earlier Tuesday, police launched a murder investigation in what was expected to be the first of several cases accusing Hasina and other government officials of responsibility for deaths during the violence.

Hasina's statement came as

the country's interim government on Tuesday canceled a public holiday that she had declared for Thursday to mark the death of her father, Bangladesh's independence leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. He was killed along with most of his family in 1975 in a military coup. Hasina and her younger sister were out of the country at the time.

The cancellation came at the request of at least seven political parties, including the main previous opposition group, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party. After Hasina's downfall on Aug. 5, demonstrators set fire to her father's house, now a museum, in Dhaka.

Despite all that, Hasina urged people in her statement to observe the holiday "with proper dignity."

The case launched Tuesday involved the killing of a grocery shop owner in July. S.M. Amir Hamza, described as a "well-wisher" of grocery store owner Abu Sayeed, filed the case at the court of Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Rajesh Chowdhury. Hamza said Sayeed was killed on July 19 amid clashes during the student-led uprising, and that he filed the case because Sayeed's family did not have the capacity to seek justice.

Hasina was named as a suspect in the petition along six other people including former Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan, General Secretary of then ruling Awami League party Obaidul Quader, and top police officials. □

Pakistani, Afghan Taliban forces trade fire at Torkham border crossing, killing 3 Afghan civilians

By RAHIM FAIEZ

Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP)

— Pakistani and Afghan Taliban forces traded cross-border fire near a key northwestern crossing, killing a woman and two children on the Afghan side of the border, officials said Tuesday.

There was no immediate word on casualties on the Pakistani side of the Torkham border which was shut, disrupting trade and movement of people between the two countries, local Pakistani official Zahid Khan said.

Torkham, a key border crossing, is located in Pakistan's northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

It was unclear who initiated the attack, though such

cross-border fire is common along the Afghan-Pakistan border. Each side has in the past closed Torkham, and also the southwestern Chaman border crossing

in Pakistan, for various reasons. Both crossings are vital for trade and travel for Afghanistan and Pakistan. In Kabul, Abdul Mateen Qani, a spokesman for Af-



Local residents stand beside a wall damaged due to cross firing between Pakistan and Afghan Taliban forces near Torkham border area of Nangarhar, province east of Kabul, Afghanistan, Tuesday, Aug. 13, 2024.

Associated Press

ghanistan's Interior Ministry, said the clash took place Monday and accused Pakistani forces of targeting civilians.

He said "Pakistani forces opened fire on forces of the Islamic Emirate in the Ghorki area near the Durand line in Torkham area, prompting a response from the Afghan side."

He said on the social media platform X that Afghan forces destroyed two Pakistani border posts during the clashes.

Pakistani officials say the two sides were in contact with each other to defuse tensions.

Local officials in Pakistan on Tuesday said thousands of people living near the Torkham border fled and

evacuated to safer places on Monday.

Pakistani authorities said trucks carrying perishable items, including vegetables and fruits, were waiting on both sides of the border Tuesday for the reopening of the Torkham crossing.

The Taliban seized power in Afghanistan in August 2021 as U.S. and NATO troops were withdrawing from the country after 20 years of war. Like the rest of the world, Pakistan has so far not recognized Afghanistan's Taliban government. The international community has been wary of the Taliban's harsh measures, imposed since their takeover, especially in restricting the rights of women and minorities. □



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For today we received a lovely message from Carlos Roberto Montenegro and M. Beatriz from Brazil.

They wrote to us saying: "We are coming for the forth time this year to Aruba: it is the best place to rest and be sure that the weather will be nice, knowing that local people will be attentive to our questions. We already bought 2 air tickets for 2025!"

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thority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island". □

Aruban snacks and where to find them



ORANJESTAD — Want to taste something different for a change? How about some Aruban snacks that you can find all around the island? Hop in your car, and go to these locations to find some of the most popular and tasty snacks that are beloved by our locals.

One of the staples of Aruban cuisine and snacks is the Pastechi. Pastechi is a Caribbean fried pastry that is filled with cheese, meat, chicken, veggies and sometimes even fish! Or perhaps you might want to try a croquette, locally called a "kroket," which is a crusty fried snack with typically a meat and dough mix filling. The Aruban kroket is based on its Dutch counterpart, the "bitterbal".

These two snacks are typically found in all local snack trucks, which can be found all over the island, including on the side of the main road

that stretches from San Nicolas to the Hotel Area. You can also find pastechis and kroketts at local bakeries and snack shops, like Bright Bakery in Piedra Plat, Huchada in Santa Cruz or Pastechi House in the city center. These places may also sell other snacks and sandwiches too, perfect for on-the-road lunch break.

While you're at it, why not accompany your snack with a refreshing "batido"? Batidos are fruit shakes, typically made with added milk for some creaminess. However, you can also ask to hold the milk. Batidos are commonly found in snack shops too. You may find some batido shops next the flee markets downtown, or if you're on your way to San Nicolas, at Mauchi Smoothies and Juice Bar in Savaneta (located at the side of the main road).

If you are looking for something a bit more fresh



and healthy, why not try some coconuts, or shaved ice from local vendors? These vendors carry their little shop at the back of their truck, so they are ever-moving around the island. However, there are a few spots where you can almost always find a coconut/shaved ice vendor:

1. Right next to the Red Anchor in San Nicolas, on the way to Baby Beach.
2. Along the main road next to the airport field.
3. At the California Light House.
4. At the Alto Vista Chapel.

These vendors may also sell other delights, like the beloved coconut-based dessert "cocada" or peanuts. All in all, in Aruba, you can always find some place to take a break and have a bite of something local, you maybe just might have to look for them!

Photo credit: wheninaruba.com

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Fusion - Piano & Wine Bar | Shalom Body & Soul Spa
Magnet Perfume Jewelry & Cosmetics | The Lazy Lizard
Shalom Hair & Nails Bar | Twist of Flavors | Dunkin DonutsComing Soon: Moments & Memories Jewelry,
Treasure Cove, and El Patio Tacos & Tequila

Aruba Tourism Authority honored a loyal visitor at Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing a Distinguished Visitor of Aruba. The honoree was respectfully honored with a certificate for her years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honorary certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three levels of honor are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honoree was:

Distinguished Visitor
Ms. Sheri Schmick from Palm Harbor Florida,

United States.

Mr. Jorgino Willems representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of the Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort bestowed the certificate upon the honoree, presented her with gifts, and thanked her for choosing Aruba as her favorite vacation destination, as her home away from home.

The top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honoree was:

- Aruba's people.
- Aruba's beaches.
- Aruba's Arts and culture.
- "The donkey sanctuary and doing what I can to help them"

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honoree for her continued visits to the "One Happy Island". □



Exploring the Mainstreet of San Nicolas

SAN NICOLAS— At Just 11 miles southeast from Oranjestad you will enter the city San Nicolas, also known as Sunrise City or Chocolate City. A city that is rich in authentic culture and island charm. San Nicolas is Aruba's second largest city and was once a bustling company town dominated by the oil industry since the early 1930's.

Over the course of four decades, its demographics had changed immensely due to a stream of Afro-Caribbean and South American workers who came to fill the jobs in the oil refinery between the 1920's until the 1960's. To this day traces of the multicultural influences in culinary offerings and customs, housing and population are clearly visible in San Nicolas - more than anywhere else on the island.

Flow of history

if you are looking for history San Nicolas has it. Here you will find

three amazing museums, The Museum of Industry, the Community Museum and the Carnival Euphoria, all within walking distance from one another.

The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history which began in the 19th century. Here you will learn about gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and the tourism industries which made San Nicolas once a bustling business center. Experience the touching stories of those who were part of this history.

Nicolaas Store built in 1940 and renovated in 2014 is the home of the Community Museum. The collection is remarkable and spans millennia. Ancient fossils stand next to tableaux of an authentically recreated colonial kitchen and bedroom and 19th-century barbershop, just to name a few of the items of old-time Aruba that has been preserved. A collection of

artifacts and other objects of artistic, cultural, historical, or scientific importance can be found here for the purpose of education or enjoyment.

Carnival Euphoria is showcasing Aruba's Carnival. See how are Carnival has developed over the past 65 years.

The new San Nicolas

In the shadow of the refinery, an art capital is quietly beginning to grow. This is the new San Nicolas, a place that is starting to become a magnet for all that is young, cool and hip in Aruba. Indeed, San Nicolas has all of the ingredients of an emerging cultural hub — varied history, interesting architecture, and, perhaps most importantly, an urban layout that makes it walkable. As you walk around, the streets are silent but the walls are loud, filled with bright, colorful murals painted by a collection of artists from around the world. Thanks to the efforts of vari-

ous art organizations in Aruba, such as Art Rules Aruba and Aruba Art Fair, San Nicolas has had quite the aesthetic makeover with regards to vibrant street art. Each year more and more stunning murals are replacing broken down buildings with colorful art pieces that keep brightening up SunriseCity.

Must See, Do, Buy & Eat

A little bit of everything can be found in the main street. Stores selling shoes, clothing, jewelry you name it. Arts & crafts by Cosecha store & Creative Center, a design store in which you can immerse yourself in discovering genuine and locally made arts and crafts which reflect the diversification of the Aruban craft heritage and the artistic supply of artisans. Don't miss out on trying the exquisite food offered by the cafes and restaurants or just enjoy a peaceful walk admiring the murals, mosaic benches and all the history San Nicolas has to offer. □



Article by Etnia Nativa

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SAPATE' (Peltophorum pterocarpum)

Episode CCLXVI - 266

Did you know that Etnia Nativa, a unique living museum, is where island tradition meets entertainment, sharing interactive experiences with an exclusive few? An unparalleled private opportunity to enter a beautiful property made with reused materials collected during time by our unrivaled columnist and island cultural expert. Book your visit and dive deep into the navel of Aruba's archaic cultural heritage through an educational perspective. In this new episode, we introduce details of an ornamental tree, locally known as Sapate', whose origin goes back to Asia, brought here in colonial days by Dutch for its shade, beautiful flowers, and resistance to heat and drought.

Sapate' (Peltophorum pterocarpum) is commonly known in English as copper pod, yellow flame tree, or yellow poinciana. It is grown in tropical regions as an ornamental tree and on street sidewalks and gardens around the world, particularly in India, Pakistan, Florida, and Hawaii.

It is a deciduous tree that reaches up to 50 meters in height with "bipinnate leaves" (a botanical term for leaves with secondary leaf branches) and a stalk of bright yellow flowers.

Its beautiful flowers are used as the main decoration of the Bathukamma flower festival celebrated in Telangana state. In India, this tree has been planted alternately as a common scheme for their avenues, alternating with Delonix Regia (Poinciana)- (see episode 52, Ornamental Trees)- to give a striking yellow and red effect.

Its wood covers a wide variety of uses, including cabinet making, while the foliage is used as a fodder crop. The brownish color called sogan, typical of batik fabrics from the interior of Java, is produced from P. pterocarpum bark, which is known there as soga and locally known there as kayu timor, also used in traditional medicine for the treatment of ailments like stomatitis, insomnia, skin troubles, constipation, ringworm, dysentery, muscular pains, and skin disorders. Belonging to the Fabaceae family, Sapate', and is regarded as one of the most significant plant species in the traditional system of medicine.

'Sapate', with its spreading, rounded crown, stands at the center of the Etnia Nativa garden with about



4 meters tall but will grow much larger, reaching up to 15 meters in height. With proper pruning, it develops an increasingly uniform crown. The delicate, dark green, feathery leaflets provide a softening effect for the tree's large size and create a welcoming dappled shade. From May to September, the entire crown of the tree is covered with a yellow blanket of flowers, which appear in showy terminal panicles and exude a delicious grape-like perfume. These clusters of flowers are followed by four-inch-long seed pods that mature to a dark, glossy wine color. At certain times of the year, a tree filled with bees and their constant buzzing becomes the most "talkative" tree in the garden. Especially during these days when it is invaded by hundreds of Cicadas that produce a loud buzzing or clicking sound, often described as a rhythmic, high-pitched whine, which males generate to attract females for mating, "delight" us with the most deafening concert.

Full bloom is a wonderful tree, fast-

growing that does best in full sun and in any well-drained soil. However, temperatures around 20 degrees Celsius or lower cause the leaves to fall off, but these are quickly replaced. It is an ideal tree for open spaces or large yards. It can be grown with a single trunk or with several. The trunks or branches of multi-trunk trees should be well spaced along a central stem and should not grow more than half the diameter of the main stem. This will increase wind resistance. The single-trunk tree ensures a long-lasting plant.

Although the "Sapate," or Yellow Poinciana, will develop a very large trunk, its shallow surface roots make it susceptible to being blown over during severe wind storms, so consideration should be given to locating it about ten feet away from buildings so that the large, shallow roots do not cause damage.

If you liked our native stories and are interested in learning the true identity of Aruba, a visit to Etnia Nativa would be a fantastic choice. It has been a trend setter since 1994, as a co-founder of projects such as Arikok National Park, the Archaeological Museum, and the Artisan Foundation, among others. Every week, this newspaper continues to share its valuable knowledge. Don't miss the opportunity to feel the island's spirit through learning real stories that are not just remembered; they resonate, they're felt, and they stir souls. Book your visit: WhatsApp +297 592 2702 etnianaativa03@gmail.com



The legend of the Kibrahacha tree

(Oranjestad)—The Kibrahacha is a famous tree known locally for its bright, yellow flowers that blooms for just three days. Scientifically known as *Tabebuia billbergii*, and in English as the Yellow Poui, this tree is native to the Caribbean islands of Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao, and is considered among locals as one of the most spectacular trees on the island. But did you also know that the beautiful yellow flowers have a story behind them?

The Kibrahacha is said to have extremely hard wood—so hard that it can break an axe. In fact, that's what its name means in Papiamentu: "kibra" (break) "hacha" (axe). The flowers bloom around April and May, but this only last for about three days, as the flowers start to fall off and the tree starts growing its green leaves. The Kibrahacha is especially particular, as it's the only one among its neighboring trees to start blooming first.

The legend of the Kibrahacha
Written by Hubert (Lio Booi)

One day Aterima, who lived west of the hill Sero Warawara, woke up one day to find her father sleeping in his hammock, suffering a bout of terrible fever. Her mother was very worried, and as was the custom in the olden days, asked Aterima to go fetch Kudawechea, who was an epistemophile, to come see his father.

Aterima wasted time and went to go fetch Kudawechea. Upon telling Kudawechea that her father was sick, he immediately accompanied Aterima back to her hut, where he encountered her father in a bad state. Not willing to waste any time, he told Aterima that the only thing that can cure her father is a home-made potion made out of the Kibrahacha flower. At the time the Kibrahacha was not yet in her blooming season, but the stubborn Kudawechea was determined to bring back Aterima's father back to health, and so off they went to the nearest Kibrahacha tree.

When they arrived at the tree,

they saw that it was covered head to toe in thorns, with only a few closed flowers at the very top. Kudawechea, experienced veteran in all things Aruban flora and fauna, told Aterima to start plucking the thorns of the tree to climb to the top where the flowers are. Aterima, just as determined to save her father, didn't hesitate to start.

To her surprise, every time she plucked a thorn of the tree, a bright, yellow flower bloomed in its place. The thorns were hard to pluck out, but Aterima continued plucking with enthusiasm and wonder at the unfolding sight before her. Not too long after she was able to fill her entire satchel with the yellow flowers. Kudawechea, satisfied to see Aterima so happy and encouraged to help her father, took her back to her hut.

Upon arriving back at the hut, Aterima's mother quickly made a tea out of the flowers and gave it to her sick husband. Miraculously, after just one sip of the tea, the



father's fever left his body immediately, and he opened eyes and sprung up feeling new.

The next morning, they all visited the same Kibrahacha tree that saved the life of Aterima's father and they saw another miracle. The tree was covered again in the same bright, yellow flowers, with not a thorn in sight. And as the legend goes, from that day on, the Kibrahacha tree no longer produced any more thorns. □

Visit the historic museum at Fort Zoutman!

(Oranjestad)—Located in the middle of downtown Oranjestad, situated right next to the government building "Cocolishi", is one of the oldest buildings of Aruba: Fort Zoutman. First constructed in 1796, this site has been used (or left unused) in many ways and have survived eras of war and attempted dismantling.

When anyone refers to Fort Zoutman, they are actually referring to two separate buildings that, over the years, have been merged: the fort and the tower.

That's right, the iconic 5-story, squared tower was not part of the original structure of the fort, and is actually called "Willem III Toren". Constructed in 1867, this tower was named after the then-reigning king of The Netherlands, Willem III. Willem III Toren was originally a light tower, but after a request from Lieutenant Governor Jan Helenus in 1866, it also became a bell tower.

The fort itself was originally constructed to protect the commerce bay of Paardenbaai from pirates and other disreputable



characters roaming the Caribbean Sea. Unlike the Willem III Toren, Fort Zout-

man had a more tumultuous past, including the on-and-off reception of unwanted members of the English military several times (The Netherlands was at constant war with England back in the colonial era). Over the years, both the fort and the tower had functioned as different government center points, including a tax and stamps office. For some time these two buildings also housed a police precinct and jail, and even experienced abandonment until the Cultural Center Aruba Foundation (CCA) petitioned for its renovation in 1964, turning the site into the Historic Mu-

seum it currently is.

Despite its small size, The Historic Museum guards a rich depository of the commercial, military and social history of Oranjestad, offering a glance into how the social culture of the town came to be. If you are interested in history and want to learn more about Aruba, then Fort Zoutman should definitely be included into your itinerary.

The museum is open Monday to Friday from 9am-6pm, and Saturday from 10am-2pm.

Source: The Old Fort of Aruba
by Jan Hartog.



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Say "nay," say
5 Deep bow
11 Touch on
12 Kenya neighbor
13 Ticked off
14 Trusted teacher
15 Toe count
16 James Brown genre
17 Blow one's top
19 Lingerie item
22 Fragrant wood
24 Young pigeon
26 Full range
27 Spur on
28 More loyal
30 Singer Jackson
31 Part of a match
32 Radiate
34 National symbol
35 Cotillion girl
38 Insect midsection
41 Toy on a string
42 Land of the lei
43 Marseille money
44 Corrects
45 Rose part

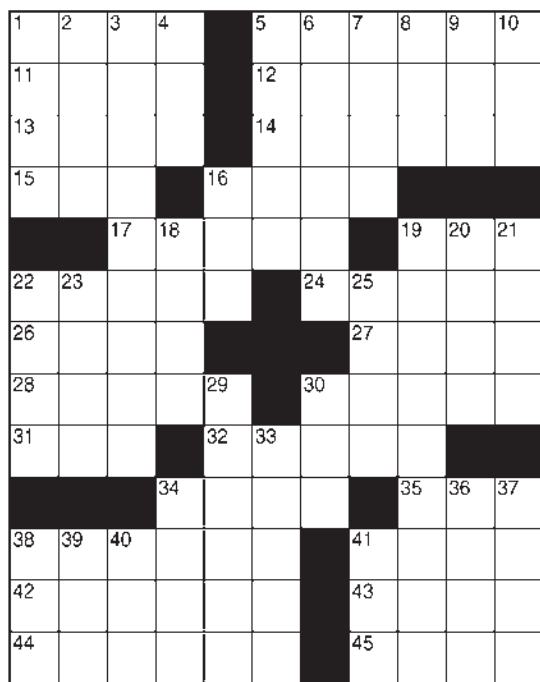
DOWN

- 1 Sweeping
2 Bassoon's kin
3 Showed up
4 Summer, in Paris
5 Recap
6 Hollywood workers
7 Gaunt
8 Leaf lifter
9 Bother
10 Spoil
16 Koala coat
18 Tear down
19 Exhausted from overwork
20 Latest fad
21 Aid illegally
22 Purr producers



Yesterday's answer

- 23 To be, in Paris
25 Campus area
29 Put down again
30 Moon-shine holder
33 Cartesian coordinate line
34 Football's Tarkenton
36 Jane of fiction
37 Cannon sound
38 Start of many titles
39 Deli meat
40 Need to pay
41 "Sure thing!"



5-22

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

5-22 CRYPTOQUOTE

J B Z P N H E E H K Z G E B D R J
I R B B Z B B ; E N Z P R R V B P R J K V
Q Z U Z S D B A K Z G E A T G R
Q A S V B B H G O E N Z S Z Z W M Z I E
E N R B Z E N H E B H G O Q Z B E .
— N Z G S D U H G V D F Z

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THAT'S THE THING ABOUT BOOKS. THEY LET YOU TRAVEL WITHOUT MOVING YOUR FEET. — JHUMPA LAHIRI "THE NAMESAKE"

Cruise ship Schedule: August 6 - 27 2024

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
TUE	06	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS CARNIVAL HORIZON CARNIVAL MARDI GRAS	08.00 09.00 13.00	20.00 22.00 23.00	B C I	1 1 1
WED	07	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	09.00	21.00	C	1
TUE	13	CELEBRITY BEYOND CARNIVAL CELEBRATION CARNIVAL VISTA	08.00 08.00 13.00	21.00 22.00 23.00	B C I	1 1 1
THU	14	ENCHANTED PRINCESS	08.00	18.00	C	1
WED	20	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	22.00	C	1
WED	27	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	C	1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Electrical power



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of out-

Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Supermarket hours



Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Safety



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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Google rolls out Pixel 9 phones earlier than usual as AI race with Apple heats up

By **MICHAEL LIEDTKE**
AP Technology Writer
MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif.

(AP) — Google on Tuesday unveiled its next generation of Pixel phones, providing the maker of Android software a head start on the next iPhone in the race to bring more artificial-intelligence services to devices that have become people's constant companions.

The showcase held near Google's Mountain View, California, headquarters took place two months earlier than when the company typically rolls out the next models in its Pixel phone line-up, which made its debut eight years ago. Although Pixel phones still represent a sliver of worldwide smartphone sales, they are still closely watched because they serve as Google's platform for demonstrating the latest advances in the Android operating system that powers virtually every phone not made by Apple. And Google left little doubt that the Pixel 9 phones are meant to be a vessel for the AI technology that is expected to reshape the way people live and work, just as smartphones in general have done over the past 15 years.

"We are obsessed with the idea that AI can make life easier and more pro-



Media and guests try out new Google products at Made By Google at Google on Tuesday, Aug. 13, 2024, in Mountain View, Calif.

Associated Press

ductive for people," Rick Osterloh, a Google senior vice president who oversees the Pixel phones, said Tuesday.

That's similar to the theme Apple is accentuating as it prepares to make AI a centerpiece of the iPhone. That moment is expected to arrive shortly after Labor Day when Apple traditionally takes the wraps off its next iPhone. The next model, the iPhone 16, is expected to be a big attraction because it will be equipped with the special chip needed to run a suite of AI features. Those features are designed to make Apple's virtual assistant Siri smarter and perform a wide variety of other tasks that the company is promising will bring more joy to people's lives, while still

protecting their privacy. But Apple's plans for AI remain hazier than Google's vision, and Google is also rolling it out more broadly, including on Samsung phones powered by Android, said Emarketer analyst Grace Harmon. That may increase the pressure on Apple next month when it unveils the next iPhone.



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Not surprisingly, the Pixel 9 lineup is also packed with AI technology, a shift that the Google began last October when it released that year's model. This generation of phones will be the first centered around the Gemini technology that's become the focal point of its push into AI. □



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2 Bed Ocean view \$21,500
2 Bed Garden view \$16,500
3 Bed Ocean view \$32,000
WK 51 Ocean view \$65,000
WK 52 Ocean View \$65,000
WK 7 and 14 - all views

GOLD SEASON

2 Bed Oceanfront \$18,000
2 Bed Oceanside \$14,000
2 Bed Ocean view \$12,500
2 Bed Garden view \$10,000
3 Bed Ocean view \$28,000

Marriott Aruba Ocean Club PLATINUM SEASON

2 Bed Oceanfront \$45,000
2 Bed Ocean view \$29,000
1 Bed Ocean front \$21,000
1 Bed Ocean View \$17,000

GOLD SEASON

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1 Bed Oceanfront \$13,000
1 Bed Ocean View \$11,500

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Tel. 527 4000

San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours
Tel. 524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:

Eagle : Tel. 587 9011

San Nicolas:

San Nicolas: Tel. 584 5712

OTHER

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Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002

Urgent Care 586 0448

Walk-In Doctor's Clinic

+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank
Tel. 588 0002
FAVI- Visually Impaired
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Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989
Fundacion Contra Violencia
Relacional Tel. 583 5400
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Why Trump's and Harris' proposals to end federal taxes on tips would be difficult to enact

By **DEE-ANN DURBIN**
AP Business Writer

Former President Donald Trump and Vice President Kamala Harris agree on one thing, at least: Both say they want to eliminate federal taxes on workers' tips.

But experts say there's a reason Congress hasn't made such a change already. It would be complicated, not to mention enormously costly to the federal government, to enact. It would encourage many higher-paid workers to restructure their compensation to classify some of it as "tips" and thereby avoid taxes. And, in the end, it likely wouldn't help millions of low-income workers.

"There's no way that it wouldn't be a mess," said James Hines Jr., a professor of law and economics and the research director of the Office of Tax Policy Research at the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business. Both candidates unveiled their plans in Nevada, a state with one of the highest concentrations of tipped service workers in the country. Trump announced a proposal to exclude tips from federal taxes on June 9. Harris announced a similar proposal on Aug. 10. Details have been sparse. Neither candidate's team has said whether it would exempt tips only from income taxes, only from payroll taxes or both. The payroll



A tip jar contains one dollar and five dollar bills, Sept. 6, 2017 in New York.

Associated Press

tax funds Social Security and Medicare.

Harris' campaign has said she would work with Congress to draft a proposal that would include an income limit and other provisions to prevent abuses by wealthy individuals who might seek to structure their compensation to classify certain fees as tips. Her campaign said these requirements, which it did not specify, would be intended "to prevent hedge fund managers and lawyers from structuring their compensation in ways to try to take advantage of the policy."

Trump's campaign has not said whether its proposal would include any such requirements.

Even so, Hines suggested that millions of workers not just wealthy ones would seek to change their compensation to include tips, and could even do so legally. For example, he said, a company might set up a separate entity that would reward its employees with tips instead of year-end bonuses.

"You will have taxpayers pushing their attorneys to try to characterize their wage and salary income as tips,"

Hines said. "And some would be successful, inevitably, because it's impossible to write foolproof rules that will cover every situation."

Republican supporters of Trump argue that Hines' concerns are overblown. Darin Miller, a spokesman for Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas, said the Internal Revenue Service has a precise definition for tips and contended that reclassifying wages would be considered fraud.

Miller noted that some Democrats have signed on to co-sponsor a bill Cruz introduced in June that would exempt

tips from federal income taxes. A bill exempting tips from payroll and income taxes has also been introduced in the House.

Though supporters say the measures are designed to help low-wage workers, many experts say that making tips tax-free would provide only limited help to those workers.

The Budget Lab at Yale, a non-partisan policy research center, estimates that there were 4 million U.S. workers in tipped occupations in 2023. That amounted to about 2.5% of all employees, including restaurant servers and beauticians.

Tipped workers tend to be younger, with an average age of 31, and of lower income. The Budget Lab said the median weekly pay for tipped workers in 2023 was \$538, compared with roughly \$1,000 for non-tipped workers. As a result, many tipped workers already bear a lower income-tax burden. In 2022, 37% of tipped workers had incomes low enough that they paid no federal income tax at all, The Budget Lab said. "If the issue is you're concerned about low-income taxpayers, there are a lot better ways to address that problem, like expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit or changing tax rates or changing deductions," Hines said. In her speech in Nevada, □

Spending at small businesses rose in July as consumers spend more on general merchandise



Michelle Rutkowski, owner of Boardwalk Best and Five Mile Marketplace, hands a customer a receipt in Wildwood, N.J., Friday, Aug. 9, 2024.

Associated Press

By **MAE ANDERSON**
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Consumers spent more at small businesses in July, a rebound fueled by strong sales of general merchandise and health and personal care products.

The Fiserv Small Business Index rose 1 point to 141 after a 4 point decline in June. The figure is derived from point-of-sale transaction data, including card, cash, and check transactions in-store and online across about 2 million U.S. small businesses. "Following modest declines in June, consumer spending rebounded nicely in July to help many small businesses start the second half of the year strong," said Jennifer LaClair, head of merchant solutions at Fiserv.

Compared with July of last year, sales rose

3.5% and number of transactions rose 3.3%. "Consumer spending patterns continue to shift, most notably with retail spend experiencing a decisive bounce back compared to June," said Prasanna Dhole, chief data officer at Fiserv. "Specialty trade and professional services also performed very well due to seasonal demand and stabilizing inflation rates."

Retail spending rose 4.6% and retail transactions jumped 5.8%. General merchandise was the strongest category, up 10.9%. Health and personal care products rose 8.6%, building equipment and garden materials rose 6.2%, food and beverage sales rose 4.9% and furniture, electronics and appliances rose 4.7%.

One weak spot was restaurant sales, which slipped 1.6% despite seeing modest growth in foot traffic, up 0.7%. □



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Valhalla Golf Club, site of this year's PGA Championship, to host 2028 Solheim Cup

By **GARY B. GRAVES**
AP Sports Writer

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Valhalla Golf Club will host the Solheim Cup in 2028, bringing the women's team competition to a venue that has hosted the Ryder Cup and four PGA Championships, including earlier this year. Tuesday's announcement by the LPGA Tour marks a reprieve for a course that appeared to have shaky prospects for staging future major events after top-ranked Scottie Scheffler was arrested outside the entrance before the second round of the PGA Championship in May. Scheffler was charged with multiple offenses, including not following an officer's commands during a pedestrian fatality investigation, and detained in downtown Louisville before



United States captain Stacy Lewis, center, and Lexi Thompson, right, address the media Monday, July 15, 2024, at Robert Trent Jones Golf Club in Gainesville, Va., where the United States will take on Europe in the Solheim Cup golf tournament in September.

Associated Press

returning to Valhalla hours later. The Masters champi-

on shot a 5-under 66 in the second round and finished

the tournament in a tie for eighth, eight shots behind

Xander Schauffele. Several weeks later, a Louisville prosecutor dropped all charges against Scheffler. Junior Bridgeman, a Valhalla co-owner and former Louisville basketball and NBA star, said the ownership group had been in discussions with the LPGA Tour about hosting the Solheim Cup before the PGA, and that the Scheffler incident did not derail those talks.

"I think that most people realize that sometimes things happen out of your control and you just have to continue to do what you're doing and try to do the best you can," Bridgeman added. "And everybody here did that." Designed by Jack Nicklaus, Valhalla opened in 1986 and hosted its first PGA Championship a decade later, won by Mark Brooks. □

Jordan Chiles medal inquiry: USA Gymnastics says arbitration panel won't reconsider decision

By **The Associated Press**

USA Gymnastics officials say an arbitration panel won't reconsider a decision asking gymnast Jordan Chiles to return the bronze medal she was awarded in the floor exercise at the Paris Olympics.

USA Gymnastics says it will continue efforts to let Chiles keep the medal.

"USA Gymnastics was notified by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) on Monday that their rules do not allow for an arbitral award to be reconsidered even when conclusive new evidence is presented," USA Gymnastics said in a statement. "We are deeply disappointed by the notification and will continue to

pursue every possible avenue and appeal process, including to the Swiss Federal Tribunal, to ensure the just scoring, placement, and medal award for Jordan."

CAS voided an on-floor appeal from Chiles' coach that vaulted her to third, saying the appeal came 4 seconds beyond the one-minute time limit for scoring inquiries.

USA Gymnastics disputed the timing, saying Sunday that the agency submitted video evidence to CAS that showed Team USA coach Cecile Landi first appealed 13 seconds before the deadline.

The dispute over such minute details sets up what

could be a months- or years-long legal battle over the gymnastics scores.

The International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) said Saturday night it would respect the court's decision and elevate Ana Barbosu of Romania to third. The International Olympic Committee confirmed the ruling Sunday, announcing that it was reallocating the medal.

CAS ruled Saturday that Landi's inquiry to have 0.1 added to Chiles' score came outside the one-minute window. The CAS ad hoc committee wrote that Landi's inquiry came 1 minute, 4 seconds after Chiles' initial score was posted.

The IOC said it will be in

touch with the USOPC regarding the return of Chiles' bronze and will work with the Romanian Olympic Committee to discuss

a reallocation ceremony honoring Barbosu. Rebeca Andrade of Brazil won gold and Simone Biles of the U.S. was the silver medalist.



Two-time U.S. Olympic gymnast medalist Jordan Chiles shows her medals after ringing the closing bell at the Nasdaq MarketSite, in New York's Times Square, Thursday, Aug. 8, 2024.

Associated Press

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GO-KART RENTALS



6-time All-Pro Jason Kelce is slimming down, embracing his TV role and enjoying life after football

By **ROB MAADDI**
AP Pro Football Writer

Jason Kelce was destined for a career in the media long before he partnered with his brother, Travis, to co-host a popular podcast. It was evident early on after Andy Reid selected Kelce in the sixth round of the 2011 draft that his dynamic personality would play well on the other side of the microphone. Kelce became a go-to source for reporters throughout his 13-year career with the Philadelphia Eagles. He's insightful, eloquent and funny. Kelce has the skills to succeed in television and he brings credibility to the studio where he'll be part of ESPN's "Monday Night Countdown" broadcast team.

The six-time All-Pro center might be a first-ballot Pro Football Hall of Famer and he has a chance to be an even better analyst.

Asked how his Eagles went from starting 10-1 last season to finishing 11-6 and getting blown out by Tampa Bay in a wild-card game, Kelce provided an astute explanation.

"First of all, whenever you lose that many games in a row, it's never just one person or one area," Kelce told The Associated Press. "It sounds pretty bad, but the same as when you're winning at a high level, when you're losing at a high level, every area is struggling, players, coaches, talent. I think we had a lot of talent last year but there were pieces that we were missing. I think the cohesion certainly wasn't there like it was the year before. Obviously, we lost two coordinators, which it didn't work out



Philadelphia Eagles Jason Kelce arrives for the NFL Honors show, Feb. 10, 2022, in Inglewood, Calif.
Associated Press

with the replacements." The Eagles reached the Super Bowl after the 2022 season, losing 38-35 to Patrick Mahomes and the Kansas City Chiefs. Offensive coordinator Shane Steichen left to coach Indianapolis. He was replaced by quarterbacks coach Brian Johnson. Defensive coordinator Jonathan Gannon departed to coach Arizona. Sean Desai took over and didn't even last a full season before former Patriots DC Matt Patricia replaced him. "I think Brian, Desai and Matt Patricia, all these guys are great coaches but for whatever reason... it didn't really come together right," Kelce continued.

"On offense, when we struggled, we went to try and go simpler. I feel like you have one or two ways to go when you're struggling. You either go simple and get back to your basics and your bread and

butter. Or you go complex and you try and design your way out of these things and outsmart the opponent. On offense, we went simpler. On defense, we went the opposite way. We completely overhauled our defensive coordinator and system, and you kind of saw the downsides of both of those.

"Offensively, I think everybody would agree that we probably went too simple, and that got a little bit predictable and it could put us in situations that were probably harder to execute in. On defense, I think it created a little bit of hesitancy and guys just not really being able to play fast and aggressive because they're unsure. I think that players didn't execute at the level that we did the year before, me included. It's always kind of a little bit of everything. And, I feel good about where they're

at now. I really do."

Kelce has spent plenty of time around his former teammates at the Eagles' practice facility throughout the offseason and training camp. The 36-year-old was still playing at an elite level when he walked away from the game. He earned his seventh Pro Bowl berth last season and was a first-team AP All-Pro for the third straight year.

But forget about Kelce pulling a Brett Favre or Tom Brady and coming out of retirement. He's already down from his playing weight of 295 pounds to 275 and aims to get to 260. "They're not going to call me to come back and play center at 260 pounds, and I'm moving on to the next thing and I'm excited to watch Cam (Jurgens)," Kelce said of his replacement.

"I really think Cam is going to be tremendous this

year. He's going to really show people how great of a player he is. He was good for us last year at right guard and he's going to flourish at center. And for me personally, my days of playing are just done and I do not foresee any scenario taking place other than maybe medicine inventing a way to get rid of arthritis that I would ever entertain coming back at all anymore."

Kelce has enough to keep him busy with the TV gig, the "New Heights with Jason & Travis Kelce" podcast plus a wife and three young daughters. Then there's the occasional trip to see superstar Taylor Swift. Travis' girlfriend perform in concert. And, all those endorsement opportunities that come his way.

Kelce especially enjoyed partnering up with General Mills to create the Kelce Mix Cereal, which combines Jason and Travis' top three favorite cereals: Cinnamon Toast Crunch, Lucky Charms, and Reese's Puffs into one bowl.

"These are cereals that my brother and I grew up eating and we love them," Kelce said. "They're nostalgic brands and a part of our childhood. I think that now that we've built the Kelce (Mix Cereal) involving three of our favorites, it's kind of like everything coming full circle a little bit. It's a unique cereal. When we were first approached about it, I didn't know how those three cereals were going to actually blend together, like it's an odd combination.

But I gotta be honest. It tastes really freaking good." □